

The regular meeting of the North Town Council was held on Monday, November 8, 2004 at 7:30 PM at the North Town Hall. Mayor Earl Jeffcoat, all Council members, Administrator Russell Ott, and Clerk Cheryl Townsend were present. The Mayor declared a Quorum and called the meeting to Order. He welcomed the guests present.

Council unanimously approved minutes of the last meeting.

At this time, Mayor Jeffcoat recognized the “Lucky Clover” 4H club. Tammee Thomas and Suzie Harsey are the leaders of this group. They made the Town Christmas wreath that is to be presented to the Orangeburg Fine Arts Center. We should all commend them for the excellent job they did on the wreath. They advised that their next project will be collecting items to send to troops serving over seas. They also are interested in getting other children involved in this very worthwhile organization.

Ms. Jeanne Young from North High School then introduced Charity Taylor, who read her essay on the Community of Character trait, respect. Charity did an excellent job on her paper. We are very pleased that the school is including the Community of Character trait in the students' lesson plans.

Mr. Ott gave the Water & Sewer report. He noted that penalties and cut offs were high again this month. They were busy with miscellaneous work orders, such as checking readings and changing meters. They also repaired 6 leaks and 9 sewer line blockages. Two water taps were installed. There were no violations from DHEC in water or sewer for the month. Mr. Ott also advised Council that we have received the sewer line pumper and that the men have used it on five or six clogs. It has really done the job and saved a lot of time on each job.

No Fire Department report was offered.

Chief Fallaw gave the Police Report. Officers responded to 9 Group A offenses, 5 group B offenses, and 35 assistance calls. They also wrote 29 traffic tickets and made 7 arrests. He stated that November 5th was the deadline for resumes to be accepted. We have received 11 resumes and out of the 11 applications sent to those persons, we have received only 2 of them back, completed for review. He is continuing to look for a qualified officer to fill the open position.

October financial statements were reviewed and accepted unanimously by Council.

Renovations to Town Hall are progressing nicely. It is wonderful to finally be able to “see” work being done.

Also, we can now “see” work beginning on the widening of Highway 321. Signs have been received for downtown parking directions.

Second reading was given for the revised Insurance Tax Collection Ordinance that MASC requires so they will continue to collect them for us. A motion to accept this as 2nd reading was made by Mr. Gleaton, seconded by Mrs. Lane, and passed unanimously by Council. For the record, 1st reading was held on October 11, and Public Hearing and 2nd reading on November 8, 2004. Mrs. Townsend will send a certified copy to MASC as required.

Mr. Ott had prepared a new sick leave/annual leave/holiday policy for Council to review. After discussion by Council, a motion was made by Mrs. Lane to accept the new policy but give employees a "floating holiday". This day can be taken on President's Day, Veteran's Day, or the day after Christmas, with approval by the employee's supervisor. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cook, and Council passed the policy unanimously.

The Community of Character for November is gratitude. Mayor Jeffcoat again noted that the schools are doing a great job instilling these traits in the students.

Mayor Jeffcoat then made several announcements:

- 1) North day of prayer to be held on 11-14-04 at 3:00 PM-4:30 PM on the square. If the weather is bad, the program will be held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church.
- 2) Christmas decorations were purchased today. Mr. Ott has been working with a committee (Barbara Jeffcoat, Beth Ritter, and Mabel Ray) for ideas on decorating the Town. It has been decided to decorate the center of Town and they are considering a live Nativity scene. Mr. Ott expressed his thanks to these ladies for their time and effort in this endeavor. Decorations will be put up in the next couple of weeks.
- 3) Council was asked for permission to pull up the small cedar bushes under the crepe myrtles along Main Street. A motion to allow this was made by Mrs. Lane, seconded by Ms. Cook, and passed unanimously by Council.
- 4) Mayor Jeffcoat reminded everyone about the parade and tree lighting to be held on Sunday, November 28, 2004 beginning at 4:00 PM.

Mr. Buckheister and Mrs. Jamison were the only ones who had comments during the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lane, seconded by Ms. Cook, and passed unanimously by Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl H. Townsend
